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Docket / <sup>Rm:</sup> 222

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

POLICY & PLANNING  
BRANCH ROOM 5202

15 MAR 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

930-7/1700A3

RECEIVED

MAR 24 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Bud Shuster  
House of Representatives  
2188 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shuster:

This is in reply to your letter of February 23, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of several of your constituents regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Your constituents are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take your constituents' concerns into account when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Your constituents' letters will be included in the record of the proceeding. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994.

Sincerely,

*Edward R. Jacobs*

*for*

Richard J. Shiben  
Chief, Land Mobile & Microwave Division  
Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures

cc:

CNTL NO - 9300889

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CODE

041

Chief, PR Bureau  
Chief, LM&M Division  
Docket Files, Room 222  
P&P Branch File (Pink)

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# Congressional

DUE 3-8-93

PLEASE MAKE 2 EXTRA COPIES OF INCOMING, ATTACHMENTS,  
AND REPLY FOR DOCKET FILE, ROOM 222.

## CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM 02/26/93

### LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9300889	02/26/93	02/23/93	03/18/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Congressman	Bud Shuster	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
several	inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRB			

DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
02/26/93			

REMARKS:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.  
Washington, D.C.

February 23, 1993

Charlie Schott

Office of Congressional and Public Affairs

PRB  
92-235  
889

February 1, 1993

The Honorable Bud Shuster  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Shuster:

As a builder and flyer of radio controlled airplanes, I am writing to express my concern about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the frequencies currently assigned for model use. Not only will this cut into a worth while sport, but will increase the risk of accident and injury.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72-76 MHz band. The band is primarily used for private mobile dispatch. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from those used by land mobile units that we have been able to share the band without interfering with each other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result this would move many land mobile frequencies closer to the radio control ones. I am told that of the 50 frequencies now available for radio control hobbyists, only 19 frequencies would remain should these new rules be adopted.

When flying our radio controlled airplanes, we go to great lengths and expense to assure safe operation for ourselves and other. We have recently upgraded all our equipment to narrow band transmitters and receiver. This was costly, but not devastating like the proposed rules would be. The new regulations would force over crowding of the few frequencies left. This would be unsafe.

Please understand that many model planes have wing spans as big as ten feet and can weigh up to 30 or more pounds. The models can be expensive to build, or not, however more to the point, they can impart property damage and personal injury if operated with radio interference. Often flown in events with hundreds of public spectators, we are very particular about safety regulations. We need your help to assure continued safety on the radio frequencies we require.

While the FCC may not think that we are as important as business users of radios, we do provide a great value to thousands of people and indeed to industry. We contribute greatly to the advancement and development of

the commercial aviation industry. In addition we provide an excellent sport for our children. Is this not important offer opportunity and education?

Please help promote a safe environment for our sport by NOT allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-76 MHZ band.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne H. Sharpe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

The Honorable Bud Shuster  
2188 Rayburn House Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shuster:

Model airplanes were some of the first toys I remember playing with growing up. This interest has continued from the foam toys to rubber powered, to control line and currently to radio control. The radio control part for me has been expanded to model ships, cars, gliders and power aircraft. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like myself and contributes to the

I view this primarily as a safety issue for the modelers, for it is their equipment, person and property at risk. If a model loses radio control from a nearby powerful signal and causes injury, the modeler is at risk of litigation although it could be a casual mobile unit causing the accident.

Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out PR Docket 92-235 proposal for the 72-76 MHz band. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. E. Davison".

DR. MARK E. DAVISON

2-5-93

The Honorable William F. Clinger Jr.

P.O. Box 61  
Rockton, PA 15856  
February 11, 1993

The Honorable William Clinger  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Clinger,

We are full time health care professionals who enjoy spending leisure time building and flying radio control aircraft. We have been involved in this pass time for 3 years and during that time have constructed 23 aircraft which range from a Nifty Fifty, a plane kitted in Pennsylvania costing approximately \$150.00, to a scale model of a Ryan ST-A costing approximately \$1,200.00. These figures do not include the expenses of support equipment such as fuel, tools, etc. During the past 3 years we have introduced 10 new active fliers to the sport through free lessons. During the last 3 years we have also provided educational programs several times for the Young Astronauts at the Highland Street Elementary School in DuBois, PA. The most recent program for the Young Astronauts was a series of workshops on gliders and flight during there Western Pennsylvania conference.

Because of our involvement with radio control aircraft we are very concerned with the proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docketed 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. We are told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted. To us personally, this will mean that only one of our radios would be usable.

When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

Please understand that many model airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 30 to 40 pounds. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly our models at organized events, such as the Young Astronaut conference, and contests where hundreds of operators participate. We need the use of our full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

We do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operating conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like ourselves and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

To demonstrate the safe enjoyment of our pastime we invite you to join us in flying at any time convenient to you. Please do not allow the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72 -

76 MHz band which would so hamper our pastime.

Sincerely,

*Harry L. Miller*  
Harry L. Miller

*Sue A. Miller*  
Sue A. Miller

RD 1, box 199  
Schellsburg, PA 15559  
February 15, 1993

The Honorable Bud Shuster  
U.S. House of Representatives

Route 1, Box 175  
New Paris, PA 15554  
February 10, 1993

The Honorable Bud Shuster  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Shuster:

On behalf of myself and the Bedford County Aeromodelers Club, I request your help in defeating a proposal currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)-PR Docket 92-235. Our club members derive many hours of enjoyment from building and flying radio-controlled model aircraft, and many of us have several thousands of dollars invested in our hobby.

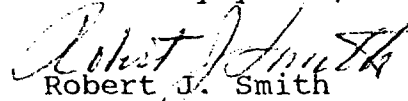
The FCC proposes to place additional commercial mobile radio frequencies between the 72-76 MHz radio band currently used by modelers. If adopted, the FCC proposed rules will greatly reduce our ability to utilize radio frequencies now assigned for the use of radio-controlled models. Adoption of the new rules will also greatly increase the risk of accidents.

For example, the proposal's technical specifications allow a frequency tolerance which could place a new signal directly on top of that which is now used by a model. Thus, it is quite possible that if a member were flying at our field and someone nearby (in a truck, RV, or automobile, for instance) were to transmit on one of the FCC-proposed frequencies, the model airplane could become an unguided missile.

Model aircraft weigh between 8 and 25 lbs. and fly between 30 and 70 mph. Therefore, the potential for serious injury and/or property damage from an uncontrolled model cannot be taken lightly. The modelers' 72-76 MHz radio band should not be tampered with.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

  
Robert J. Smith